Assessment of oil reserves

†75. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exploration of oil from many new oil wells has begun in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the location and the number of such wells and assessment of total oil reserves in the same; and

(c) the average annual oil being explored at present from these wells?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Exploration for hydrocarbons is an on-going dynamic process and involves a number of steps like identifying well locations based on geological and geophysical surveys, exploratory drilling, reserve assessment and development of the field. During last three years, i.e, from 2000-01 to 2002-03, National Oil Companies (NOCs), viz., Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), Oil India Limited (OIL) and private/Joint Venture Companies, have drilled 526 exploratory wells in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu as also East Coast & West Coast Offshore. During last three years, in-place Oil + Oil equivalent of gas (O+OEG) reserves established by ONGC, OIL & Pvt. JV Companies are 690.46 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT). As exploration and results are probabilistic in nature, average annual oil explored/accreted over a period of time cannot be specified.

Adulteration of Petrol and Kerosene in Delhi

76. SHRI AMAR SINGH:

SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of petrol pump owners and kerosene dealers even in the Capital are indulging in the irregularities including adulteration and if so, the number of dealers who have been punished during the last two years for this act; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that a number of dealers of kerosene oil are also indulging in the adulteration and selling it at a higher rate in comparison to the rates prescribed by Government and if so, what is the number of such dealers detected during the last two years and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However some unscrupulous dealers indulge in adulteration of petrol/diesel due to huge price difference between petrol/diesel and other adulterants available in the market like kerosene, solvents etc., and also the easy miscibility of adulterants with petrol/diesel. During the last two years penal action has been taken against 14 Retail Outlets (ROs) for adulteration. Government has not received any complaint of higher rate being charged by the PDS Kerosene Dealers in Delhi. PDS Kerosene is being sold directly under the supervision of State Government. Government has not received any complaint regarding its diversion for adulteration. Anti Adulteration Cell (AAC) under this Ministry and Oil Marketing Companies inspect and take action against the errant dealers under the dealership agreement and/or Marketing Discipline Guidelines.

Oil PSUs' agreement with Reliance for retailing

77. SHRI N.R. DASARI:

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Public Sector Oil Companies are marketing Reliance Industries' Petroleum Products also through their retail outlet network; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreement made in this regard and how the public sector oil companies are benefitted by this agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Companies i.e. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) have entered into bilateral product offtake agreements with Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) valid from 01.04.2002 to 31.03.2004 for upliftment of LPG, MS, HSD & SKO. IBP has no direct